

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 OIC-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /097 W

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R 080846Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8106

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 17444

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG: ETRN:ECAFE

SUBJ: RED: ECAFE TENTH SESSION WATER TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE,
BANGKOK, 31 OCT. - 7 NOV 73.

REF : STATE 214814

DEPARTMENT PAS DOT AND MARITIME ADMIN.

1. DURING FINAL SESSION NOVEMBER 7, SUB-COMMITTEE ADOPTED REPORT WHICH SUMMARIZED DELIBERATIONS OF DELEGATES FROM 12 REGIONAL AND 5 NON-REGIONAL COUNTRIES AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMANY AND NORWAY. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN MEETING WERE FOUR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, UNDP, INT'L. ASSOC. OF PORTS AND HARBOURS INT'L. CHAMBER OF SHIPPING, INT'L. MARINE RADIO ASSOC. AND SEA REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (SEATAC). PROVISIONAL AGENDA ADOPTED WITH NO CHANGES.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS OF AGENDA ITEM 4 INCLUDING SUBSECTIONS (A) THROUGH (H), NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS CARRIED EXCEPT COORDINATION OF STUDIES IN WORK PROGRAM. AT USG URGING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON MULTIMODAL DRAFT CONVENTION AVOIDED. NUMEROUS LDC EXPRESSIONS FOR SOFT VESSEL FINANCING TERMS NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS. REGIONALIZATION PROPOSALS STRONGLY RESISTED IN DEBATE BY
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SERFERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS AND NOT SHARPLY ARGUED BY

LDCS. INDIA FELT SOME OF ITS TRADES OVERRATIONALIZED TO DETRIMENT OF ITS COMMERCE AND RECOMMENDED A STUDY OF THE ADVANTAGES OF OPEN VS. CLOSED CONFERENCES. NUMEROUS OFFERS OF EXPERT ASSISTANCE NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT ON ECAFE STUDIES WERE MADE BY OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS PARTICULARLY JAPAN AND NETHERLANDS. GREAT INTEREST MANIFESTED IN REGIONAL POTENTIAL OF BARGE CARRYING VESSELS (BCV). US REP. JOINED WITH SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS IN PLEDGING US WOULD EXAMINE ON ITS MERITS ANY ECAFE PROPOSAL FOR OA BCV STUDY AND TRY TO OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

3. NO DISCUSSION ON MATTERS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5 SIGNIFICANT TO USG.

4. REGARDING MOK PROGRAMS, DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, 18 SEPARATE NEW PROPOSALS FOR WORK PROGRAMS WERE MENTIONED IN THE DISCUSSION, INCLUDING A STUDY OF BARGE CARRYING VESSEL (BCV) SYSTEMS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING RO/RO SHIPS WITH LIFTING CAPABILITIES IN THE ECAFE REGION. THE SECRETARIAT PRESENTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERM REPS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ECAFE RATIONALIZATION, A STREAMLINED WORK PROGRAM WITHOUT THE USUAL LISTING OF OLD UNFINISHED OR UNDONE WORK PROJECTS. THE SOVIETS STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS NEW PROCEDURE AND DEMANDED THAT OLD PROGRAMS BE LISTED CLAIMING THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO ACT ON THE PERM REPS' DELIBERATIONS. PAKISTAN ALSO OBJECTED TO THE NEW FORMAT WITH THE SUPPORT OF INDONESIA. JAPAN AND NETHERLANDS, NEVERTHELESS, COMMENDED THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS NEW STREAMLINED APPROACH. BANGLADESH THEN DEMANDED INCLUSION OF ALL ITS PET ECAFE PROGRAMS; HYDRAULIC STUDIES, BCV SYSTEMS AND DREDGING. LAOS ALSO DEMANDED THE RETENTION OF THE DIESEL MECHANICS TRAINING CENTER. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE WORK PROGRAM LISTING SHOULD BE CALLED A RECOMMENDATION. AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE BETWEEN JAPAN AND PAKISTAN, SECRETARIAT FINALLY WITHDREW PAPER AND RESUBMITTED A LONGER REVISED DRAFT AS WELL AS A LIST, FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES, OF WATER TRANSPORT WORK PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED BY THE ECAFE COMMISSION AT ITS 29TH SESSION. SUBCOMMITTEE EVENTUALLY AGREED TO REVISED DRAFT WHICH WAS SYNTHESIS OF OLD PROGRAMS AND NEW PROPOSALS. AT ANY RATE, THE NEW WORK PROGRAM FOR WATER TRANSPORT NO LONGER INCLUDES "COLLECTION, REVIEW AND

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DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL SUBJECTS" AS A PROGRAM OF WORK. ALSO, FOR THE FIRST TIME, MORE REFERENCES ARE MADE TO THE TRADE COMMITTEE AS A PARTICIPATING UNIT IN THE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS.

5. DELEGATION REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEES WITHIN 30 DAYS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO17444
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731147/aaaabiui.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 214814
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpeggh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by myersjs0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by thigpeggh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RED: ECAF TENTH SESSION WATER TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE, BANGKOK, 31 OCT. - 7 NOV 73.
TAGS: AORG, ETRN, TH, ECAF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005